



State of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Office of the Governor

February 2, 2011

GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL

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Governor Jindal Declares State of Emergency for Winter Storm Conditions, GOHSEP Activates Crisis Action Team

BATON ROUGE – Today, Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency for a major winter storm system and related dangerous winter weather conditions. Additionally, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) activated its Crisis Action Team (CAT) to monitor wintry and possible hazardous conditions that could impact parts of Louisiana over the next few days. GOHSEP remains in contact with parishes in the event state resources are requested and GOHSEP personnel are located in each region to assist those local parishes. Louisiana State Police (LSP), the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and the Louisiana National Guard (LANG) continue to monitor the potentially hazardous conditions in the event state assistance is needed and they have resources ready to deploy.

STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION – SEVERE WINTER STORM CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service reports that a winter storm of historic proportions has produced heavy snow, dangerous ice accumulations, bitter wind chills and severe weather throughout roughly two-thirds of the nation with blizzard warnings issued and heavy snow expected in many northern states, deep cold prevailing across the majority of the central U.S., and wind chill advisories and freeze warnings everywhere east of the Rockies to the Mississippi river from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and Mexican Border, resulting in over thirty states declaring emergencies; and,

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued freeze warnings and hard freeze warnings in effect for virtually all parishes and has produced winter precipitation models that show a high probability of freezing rain across much of Louisiana occurring within the next 72 hours, which is likely to result in downed power transmission lines, extremely hazardous travel conditions and life-threatening levels of below-freezing temperatures; and,

WHEREAS, this major winter storm system and related dangerous winter weather conditions threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State of Louisiana;

NOW THEREFORE I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of the major winter storm crossing the nation and the resulting dangerous winter weather conditions creating emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems necessary and appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe cold weather.

SECTION 4: The state of emergency extends from Wednesday, February 2, 2011 through Thursday, March 3, 2011, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this Wednesday, 2nd day of February, 2011.

/S/Bobby Jindal

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY

THE GOVERNOR

/S/Tom Schedler

SECRETARY OF STATE

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